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Congress Given CIA Data in Rare Move

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WASHINGTON. — Precedent was broken in Congress Wednesday when evidence of Soviet espionage gathered by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was presented on the House floor by Chairman L. Mendel Rivers (Dem.), South Carolina, of the House Armed Services committee.

The CIA, the nation's worldwide spy network, is customarily so cloaked in secrecy that official references to it are rare. The number of its employees, the hundreds of millions of dollars it spends, and its operations are top secret.

Representative Rivers produced a 10,000-word statement taken from Laszlo Szabo, a former major in the Hungarian intelligence and security service, who asked political asylum from the United States government last October. It contained disclosures of murder, blackmail, and forgery by Hungarian and Russian agents.

CONGRESS ALERTED

Such revelations no longer come under the heading of fresh news although Szabo aired some novel phases of Communist operations. Representative Rivers' remarks, however, and the floor discussion which followed alerted members to the fact that they were getting information about the CIA and its surveillance by Congress hitherto withheld.

The debate indicated that the CIA, stung by attacks that it is a super-government, was launching a counter-attack through its friends in Congress. Members voiced tributes to its efficiency and denials that it is a power-grabbing organization.

Rep. Rivers revealed there was a "CIA subcommittee" in his group which he had enlarged

to 11 members. He said they are "kept constantly up to date" with respect to all intelligence operations.

MATTER OF MYSTERY

The identity of members of Congress, other than committee chairmen, cleared for access to CIA operations, has been a matter of mystery in previous congressional discussions of the CIA.

Obviously in answer the demands that Congress set up a watch-dog committee to supervise the CIA, Rep. Rivers declared that the director of the agency, Adm. W. F. Rayborn, and his assistants regularly inform the subcommittee of all activities.

"The CIA does what the President tells it to do," he told the House. "It does not initiate action by itself, except, of course, the normal routine activities to be expected."

As if by prearrangement, Representatives William H. Bates (Rep.), Massachusetts, Porter Hardy (Dem.), Virginia and Leslie C. Arends (Rep.), Illinois, all members of the CIA subcommittee, rose and praised Adm. Rayborn for doing "terrific job."

Szabo, 40, was trained in espionage in Moscow when a youth and spent 20 years in the Hungarian secret police before defecting while assigned to the Hungarian embassy in London.

He cleared up the mystery involving two forged issues of an American weekly news magazine which were circulated in 1963 in Africa and Asia. The forged copies contained photographs, cartoons, and a text designed to stir up hostility against the United States by giving an false picture of the civil rights movement in America. They were printed in Hungary under supervision of the Soviet secret police, Szabo said.